



### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. McCormick, Jr. on December 6 and 7, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Attached to this examiner's amendment is a new abstract of 150 words or less, the originally filed abstract being more than 150 words.

In paragraph [0029], line 2, "18" at the beginning of the line has been changed to -16-.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Hovey is cited to show the telescopic ladder attached to a boat. Wrigley is cited to show the folding ladder attached to a boat. Garelick is cited to show a ladder shiftable from a first position of use to a second position of storage.

Cooper et al, cited by applicant, is the most pertinent prior art of record. Claim 1 and the remaining claims depending therefrom define over Cooper et al or any of the other prior art of record taken alone or in combination in view of the limitations of the "housing having a radial projection that extends from the axis of said bore in a plane perpendicular to and 180° from said first and second vertical

slots, said housing having an axial groove in said bore and adjacent said radial projection that extends from said first end to said second end, said radial projection having a plurality of radial openings located at intervals between said first end and said second end of said housing with at least a first opening located in a first plane a first distance from said first vertical slot toward said first end, a second opening located in a second plane a second distance substantially equal to said first distance from said second vertical slot toward said second end and a third radial opening located adjacent said second end, said housing having a first leg that extends from said bore with a first lip located in a second vertical plane that is perpendicular to a base of said radial projection to define a second linear slot that extends from said first end to said second end and a second leg that extends from said bore with a second lip located in said second vertical plane to define a third linear slot that extends from said first end to said second end, said plurality of openings being selectively available for receiving first bolt means, said first bolt means being defined by a first bolt having a head that is held by said axial groove and a shaft that extends through the radial projection and into said deck, and a nut that is secured to said shaft to urge said first and second lips and said base of said radial projection into engagement with the deck to fix said track member to said deck, said second linear slot and said third linear slot being selective available for receiving second bolt means, said second bolt means being defined by a second bolt having a head that is held by engagement

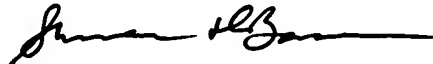
with said first leg and said radial projection or by said second leg and said radial projection with a shaft that extends into said deck and a nut that is secured to said shaft to urge said first and second lips and said base of said radial projection into engagement with the deck to fix said track member to said deck”.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sherman D. Basinger whose telephone number is 703-308-1139. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:00-2:30 ET).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Samuel J. Morano can be reached on 703-308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Sherman D. Basinger  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3617  
12/7/04

sdb  
12/7/04

### ***Abstract***

A track has a housing with a bore therein that extends from a first end to a second end, a linear slot at the top of the bore, a radial projection perpendicular to the linear slot, an axial groove in the bore, a plurality of radial openings that extend through the radial projection, a first leg thereon tangent to the top and a second leg tangent to the bottom of the bore. First and second cylindrical members on a ladder are located in the bore and a bolt inserted into each radial opening. Each bolt has a head that is located in the axial groove and a shaft that extends through an opening in a deck on a watercraft. A nut attached to each shaft such that the legs and a base on the radial projection are urged into engagement with the deck to affix the ladder to the deck.